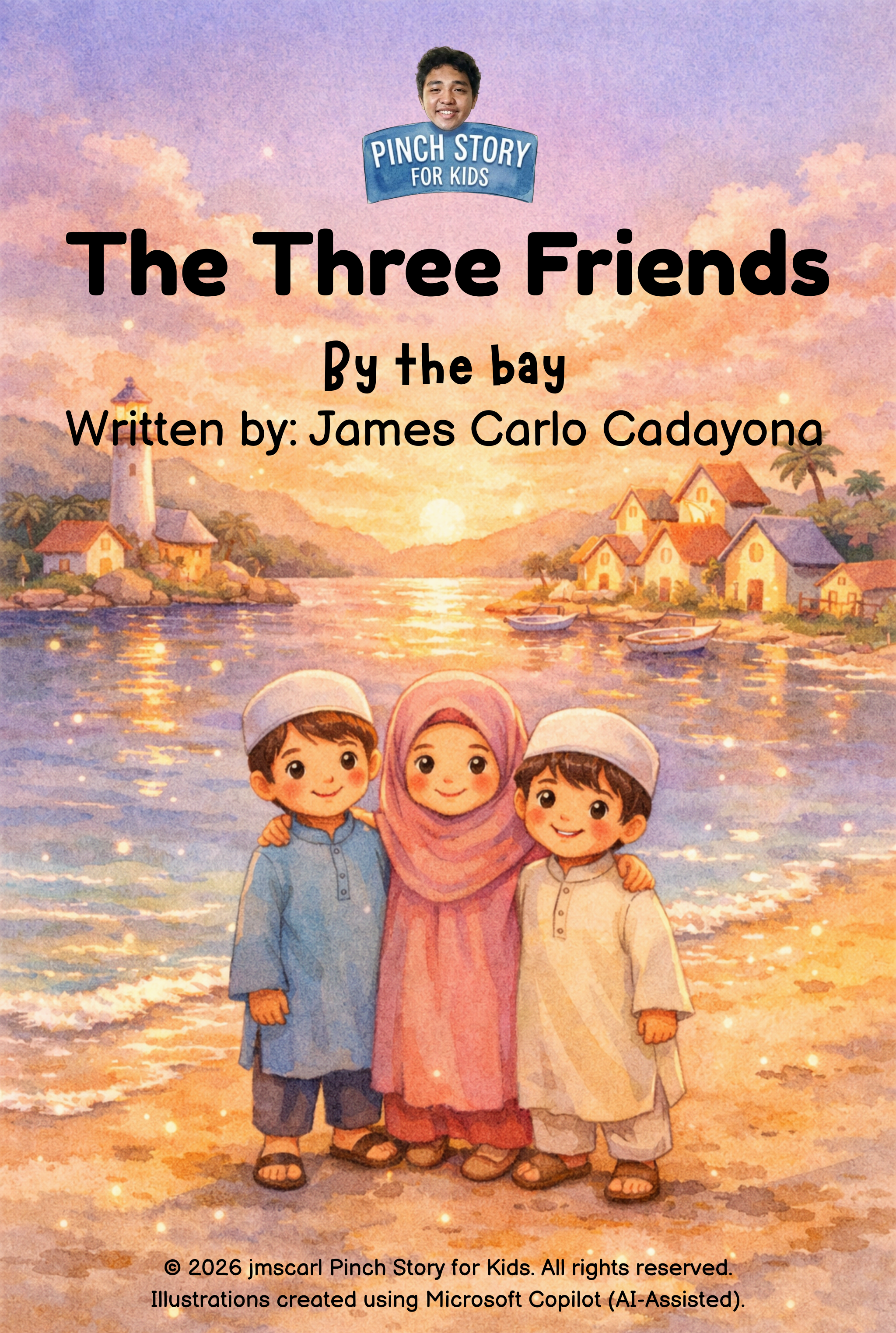

The Three Friends

By the bay

Written by: James Carlo Cadayona

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The Pinch Story was founded on March 20, 2026, by James Carlo Cadayona. It originally began as a simple novel concept focused on storytelling and character development, but over time it evolved into a children's story series centered on imagination, friendship, and everyday life lessons for young readers. This transformation allowed the project to shift from a traditional narrative approach into a more creative and accessible form of storytelling.

As the project developed, the Pinch Story expanded beyond its original format and moved toward children's literature, with a strong focus on clarity, simplicity, and visual storytelling. This shift was made to ensure that the stories could be easily understood by early readers while still delivering meaningful themes and emotional depth. Through this approach, the Pinch Story became more engaging for children by combining relatable experiences with imaginative settings and characters.

Today, the Pinch Story continues to grow as an evolving literary project that explores multiple forms of children's content, including picture books, short story collections, educational storytelling, and whimsical illustrated narratives. Each version is carefully developed to balance simple language with creative visuals, making reading both enjoyable and accessible for young audiences.

Once upon a time, near the gentle waters of the Bay, there lived three friends named Khalid, Laila, and Omar.

Their houses stood close to one another, so close that they felt like one big family.

From their windows, they could hear the waves softly greeting the shore and smell the salty breeze carried by the wind. Every afternoon after school, the three friends would meet to play, talk, and laugh together.

Sometimes they played simple games, clapping their hands and counting aloud. Other times, they sat quietly, sharing stories about their teachers, their lessons, and their small victories at school. When homework felt difficult, they helped one another patiently, never leaving anyone behind.

One quiet afternoon, as they sat around a small wooden table studying, something unexpected happened. The electricity suddenly went out. The lights blinked once, and then the room became completely dark. The familiar sounds of the house faded into silence. Layla held her breath and felt her heart beat faster. The room she knew so well now felt different, and the darkness made her uneasy.

Omar stood up calmly and searched the room. He quickly lit a small candle he found nearby. It's warm glow filled the space, dancing on the walls and chasing away the shadows.

Khalid smiled gently and said, “Even when it’s dark, true friends bring light.” Layla felt her fear slowly fade. The three friends sat closer together, comforted by the soft flame and by each other’s presence. In that quiet moment, as the candle flickered between them, they began talking about their dreams.

Layla shared that she wanted to become a teacher, someone who could guide children, help them read, and encourage them to believe in themselves.

Omar said he dreamed of becoming a doctor, so he could care for people, heal the sick, and bring comfort to families in need.

Khalid spoke last. He hoped to become an engineer, building strong homes, bridges, and schools to help their community near the Bay grow safer and stronger.

As the years passed, the three friends grew older. School became more challenging, and life was not always easy. There were days when lessons were hard and days when they felt tired or discouraged. Sometimes they disagreed, but they always found their way back to understanding. Whenever one of them struggled, the others were there—listening, encouraging, and reminding each other to keep going. Their friendship remained strong, just like the waves of the Bay that never stopped moving, no matter the weather.

One peaceful evening, the three friends walked together along the shoreline. The sand felt cool beneath their feet, and the sky glowed with soft shades of orange and pink as the sun began to set.

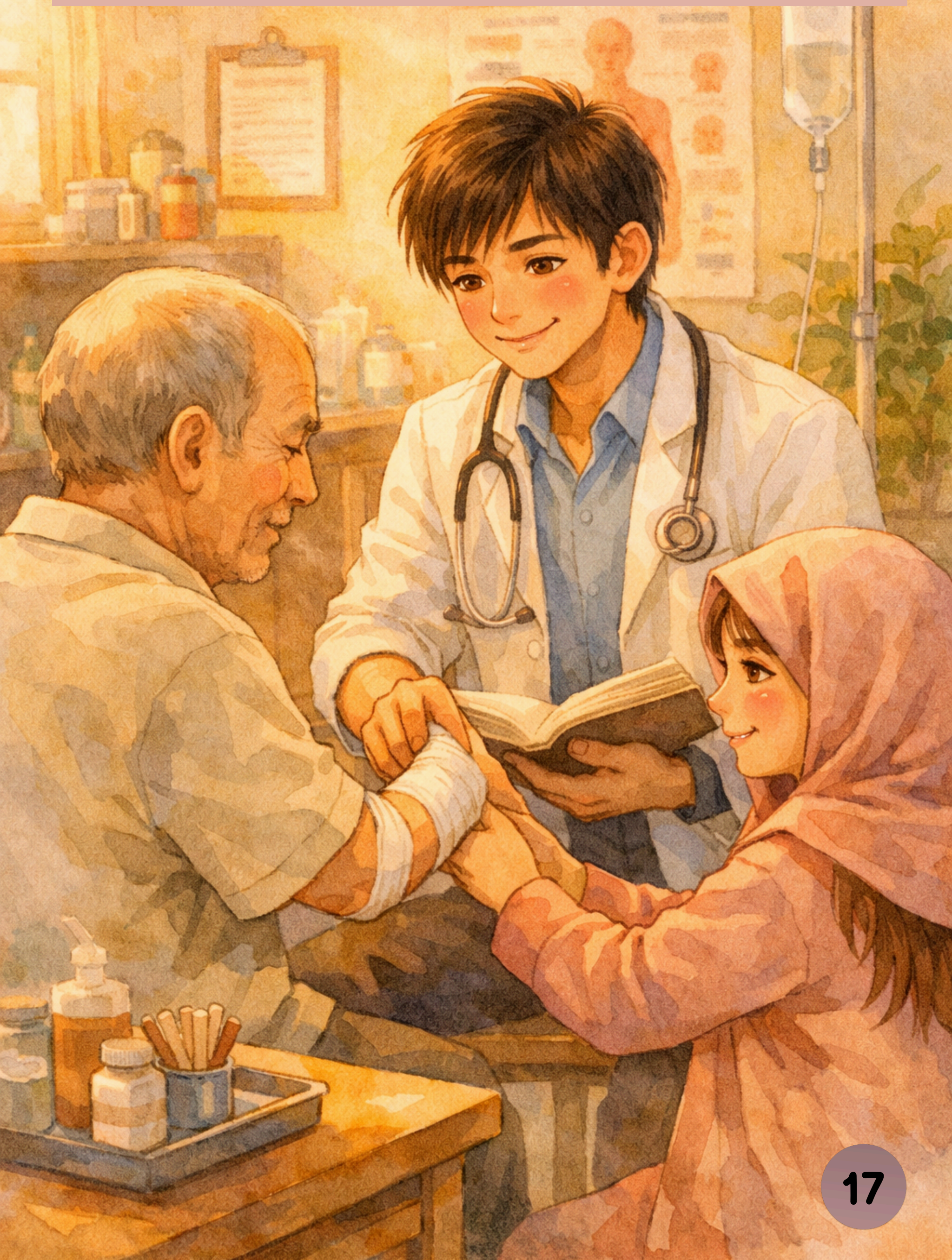
Layla looked at Khalid and Omar and asked quietly, "Do you think we will still be friends when we grow up?" Omar smiled softly and replied, Friendship is not about how often we meet, but how much we care.

Khalid bent down, picked up a small smooth stone, and gently tossed it into the water. As ripples spread across the surface of the Bay, growing wider and wider, he said, Just like these ripples, our friendship will continue to spread through our lives.

In their hearts, they understood that true friendship is a blessing from God, one that must be cared for with kindness, patience, and love.

Time continued to move forward. Layla became a teacher who inspired her students with warmth and understanding.

Omar opened a small clinic near the Bay, caring for his community with dedication and compassion.



Khalid studied architecture and designed strong, beautiful buildings for the place they loved.

Even when life became busy, the three friends always found time for one another. And whenever life felt dark or difficult, they remembered the words spoken long ago, “Even when it’s dark, true friends bring light.”

The friends remembered that kindness, patience, and love are taught in many ways—guiding people to care for one another.

Surah Al-Hujuraat 49:10; Proverbs 17:17

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Carlo Hilla Cadayona, known by his pen name J. C. Cadayona, was born on December 4, 2007, in Purok 5, Maquilao, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines. He is a Filipino high school graduate and emerging writer whose works reflect personal experiences and observations of everyday life within his community.

He balances personal growth and creative pursuits with a strong passion for literature and storytelling. His writing spans various genres, including values education, fiction, nonfiction, horror, tragedy, and comedy, allowing him to explore human emotions, cultural perspectives, and social realities. Many of his stories are inspired by real-life situations, which he transforms into narratives that highlight meaningful lessons and reflections.

He is also the creator of the Pinch Story, a developing children's literature project that focuses on imagination, friendship, and simple life lessons through accessible storytelling and visual creativity. His inspiration comes from e-book writers and studies related to human behavior and culture, shaping his approach to storytelling with a focus on relatable experiences. Although still at an early stage in his literary journey, he continues to develop his craft through consistent writing and creative exploration, aiming to produce stories that connect with readers and reflect shared human experiences.

Three friends—Khalid, Layla, and Omar—grow up by the Bay, discovering that true friendship shines brightest through every challenge. A heartwarming story about kindness, dreams, and lasting bonds.

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